

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell and Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell and Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 11, 1878

Town, May 11th, 78. (No envelope) My dear Alec and Mabel,

Most heartfelt congratulations to you both on the birth of your little daughter and also to Mrs. Hubbard on her first grandchild. You and Mabel have the honour of bringing the first belle of the Bell family into the world, and we trust she will prove a blessing to you and to all. The news was sent to us at the Heights, through the telephone. A tremendous storm had been raging, which shattered one of our private telephone posts into splints, and split another, whilst one which stood between the two was untouched! The shock was in some degree felt at our house. The servant who was standing on the back verandah, felt her feet become numb, and they remained so till she went to bed: whilst Louise who happened to have her hand resting on one of the bedroom water pipes, was conscious of a decided tingling thrill through her frame. We must therefore expect the little lady to make herself as notable as her Father has done, since the advent was heralded by such a blast of social artillery. Your Uncle, Aunt and all the family, with Papa and me unite in warmest congratulations. We enclosed the Cable Telegram to Carrie who has probably received the news by this time. I suppose it is too soon to judge who the child resembles. Laurie has been rather dangerously ill. Had been confined to bed for a fortnight or more, and the letter she sent to 2 her Mamma (received yesterday) was written in bed. She was however getting better. Ailcon is expected home today after an absence of three months. The birth of the little Telephone was duly noticed in the Expositor yesterday! With love to all, including grandmamma and Aunt Gertrude!

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Your affectionate Mother and Father, E. G. Bell and A. Melville Bell. You have kind regards from the family of your Uncle.